

## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 11-12 and 18-19, and add new claim 24.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for reducing pests in soil ~~an object or area~~, said method comprising applying to said soil ~~object or area~~ a pest reducing effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of iodoacetic acid, bromoacetic acid, 2-iodoacetamide, 2-bromoacetamide, and mixtures thereof; wherein said applying is pre-bedding, pre-transplant, pre-seed, or pre-plant, and wherein said method fumigates said soil.

Claim 2 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said pests are selected from the group consisting of fungi, insects, nematodes, bacteria, weeds, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 2, wherein said pests are fungi.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 3, wherein said fungi are *Fusarium* spp.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 2, wherein said pests are insects.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 2, wherein said pests are nematodes.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6, wherein said nematodes are *Meloidogyne* spp.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 2, wherein said pests are bacteria.

Claim 9 (original): The method according to claim 2, wherein said pests are weeds.

Claim 10 (original): The method according to claim 9, wherein said weeds are selected from the group consisting of *Amaranthus hybridus*, *Echinochloa crus-galli*, *Cyperus rotundus*, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (original): The method according to claim 12, wherein said pest reducing effective amount is about 40 to about 1200 pounds/acre.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is iodoacetic acid.

Claim 15 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is bromoacetic acid.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is 2-iodoacetamide.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is 2-bromoacetamide.

Claim 18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, said method consisting essentially of applying to said soil ~~object or area~~ a pest reducing effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of iodoacetic acid, bromoacetic acid, 2-iodoacetamide, 2-bromoacetamide, and mixtures thereof; wherein said applying is pre-bedding, pre-transplant, pre-seed, or pre-plant, and wherein said method fumigates said soil.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, said method consisting of applying to said soil ~~object or area~~ a pest reducing effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of iodoacetic acid, bromoacetic acid, 2-iodoacetamide, 2-bromoacetamide, and mixtures thereof; wherein said applying is pre-bedding, pre-transplant, pre-seed, or pre-plant, and wherein said method fumigates said soil.

Claim 22 (previously added): The method according to claim 1, wherein said pest reducing effective amount is 100-400 pounds/acre.

Claim 23 (previously added): The method according to claim 10, wherein said weeds are tubers of *Cyperus rotundus*.

Claim 24 (new): The method according to claim 9, wherein said applying is before the emergence of said weeds.